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Prohibition in Kansas and German Migration

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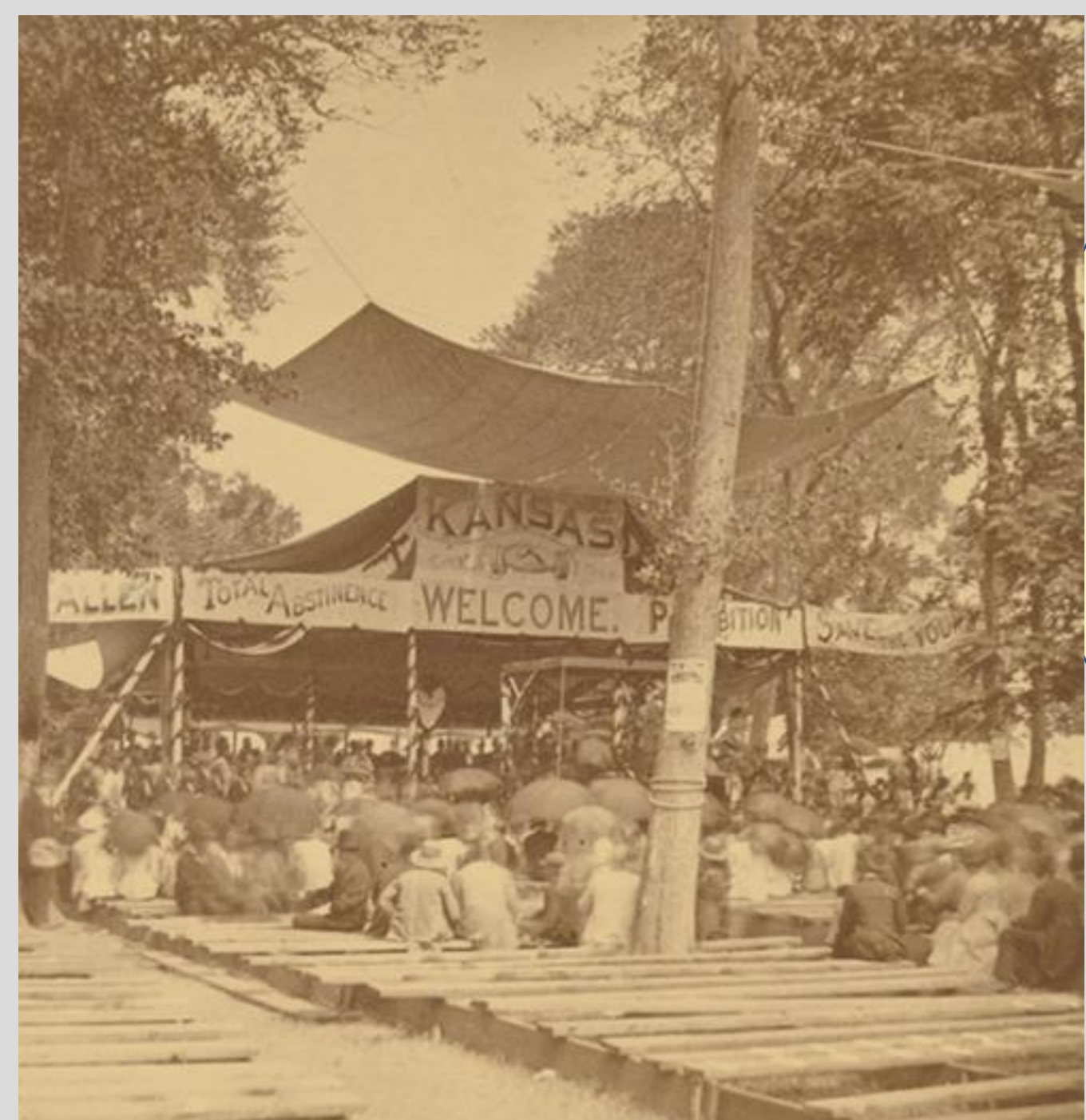
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Kansas Leads the War on Beer

Kansas’s many religious citizens made temperance a popular cause in the nineteenth century. The movement’s largest event took place at Bismarck Grove, near Lawrence, in 1879. This rally and debate spanned two weeks and attracted thousands of people. Kansas legislators soon passed the law prohibiting the manufacture and sale of alcohol in the state, putting it into effect in 1881.



Pictured: a group of Kansans gather for a temperance meeting.
Used by permission: kansasmemory.org, Kansas State Historical Society

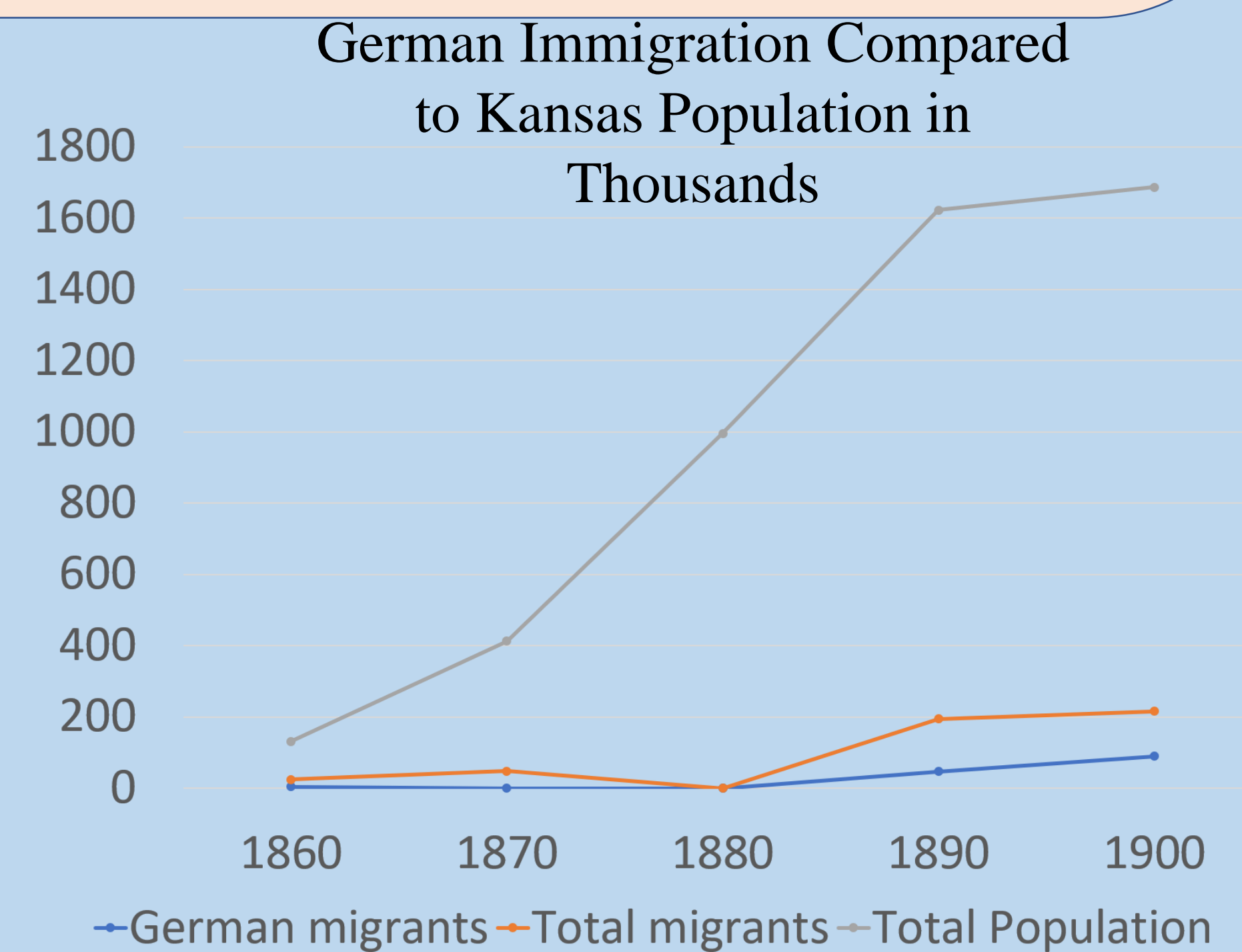
Tidwell, Ivan - #1477

Did you know...?

Kansas continued to regulate the manufacture and sale of alcohol long after national Prohibition ended, until 1949.

Did prohibition affect German migration to Kansas?

No evidence exists showing that state prohibition affected German immigration to Kansas. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway enticed immigrants to buy its surplus lands by advertising in German newspapers, and newcomers could move straight to the frontier without hearing about the law against alcohol. In western Kansas enforcement rates were low, enabling families with small-batch brewing experience to defy Prohibition, make their own beer, and share it with others.



General Works

Bob Crutchfield. *Kansas Beer: A Heady History* (American Palate, 2019)

Fred Belk, "The Final Refuge: Kansas and Nebraska Migration of Mennonites From Central Asia after 1884" *Kansas Historical Quarterly* 40, 1974

Eleanor Turk, "Germans in Kansas" *Kansas Historical Quarterly*

Norman Saul, "The Migration of the Russian-Germans to Kansas", *Kansas Historical Quarterly* 40, 1974

Data

Census data from Brian Gribben

1860 ~ 4,318 Census of population and housing, 1860, United States Census Bureau, 1860, 29

1880 ~ 40,423 Census of population and housing, 1880, United States Census Bureau, 1880, 609

1900 ~ 89,501 Census of population and housing, 1900, United States Census Bureau, 1900, 733